

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05273 120941Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /063 W
-----120947Z 033827 /15

R 120858Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6903
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5273

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: AIR SUPPORT FOR KOREA

1. FONOFF SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF SATO TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 12 THAT QUESTIONS WERE EXPECTED AS RESULT OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MANSFIELD'S TIME INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE SAID HE FAVORED PULLING US TROOPS OUT OF KOREAN AND THAT THEY COULD BE "COMPENSATED FOR BY AN AERIAL UMBRELLA BASED IN JAPAN THAT COULD COME TO THE AID OF KOREA." SATO SAID THAT SOME MAY INFER FROM QUOTE THAT US INTENDED TO MAKE UP ANY IMBALANCE WHICH MIGHT OCCUR AS RESULT OF WITHDRAWALS SOLELY WITH AIR POWER BASED IN JAPAN. STORY MIGHT ALSO ENCOURAGE ARGUMENT THAT US WITHDRAWALS WOULD BE PREMISED ON "FREE USE" OF BASES IN JAPAN.

2. SATO SAID THAT FONOFF GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON STORY INCLUDED FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) US NOW CONTEMPLATING ONLY WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND FORCES, (B) IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY, US WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON HOW TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT AND THIS MIGHT INCLUDE USE OF AIR UNITS BASED IN JAPAN, (C) USE OF BASES IN JAPAN FOR MILITARY COMBAT OPERATIONS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONSULTATIONS AND GOJ RESPONSE WOULD BE BASED ON DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL INTEREST ON CASE BY CASE BASIS.

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3. SATO ALSO SAID THAT SOME JAPANESE ATTACHED SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO PRESIDENT'S USE OF WORDS "AIR COVER" IN DESCRIBING US INTENT TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT, E.G., IN MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE. THEY READ WORDS AS HINT THAT US MIGHT WITHDRAW AIR FORCES AND PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE KOREA. FONOFF DRAFT GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT EXPRESSES GOJ UNDERSTANDING THAT US INTENDS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT PRIMARILY FROM UNITS OPERATING FROM

KOREA BUT THAT AIR SUPPORT COULD ALSO COME FROM ELSEWHERE SUCH
AS SEVENTH FLEET AND JAPAN.

4. EMBOFF NOTED THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE QUITE CLEAR ITS
WITHDRAWAL PLANS ARE RESTRICTED TO GROUND UNITS AND CAUTIONED
AGAINST EXCESSIVE SEMANTIC ANALYSIS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP REDUCTIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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